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February 3, 2005

**ELECTRONICALLY FILED**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20054

**Re: CS Docket No. 98-120**  
**In the Matter of Carriage of Digital Television Broadcast Signals**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 2, 2005, the undersigned had telephone conversations with Jordan Goldstein, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps, and Barry Ohlson, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein, and on February 3, 2005, the undersigned had a telephone conversation with Commissioner Adelstein, all relating to the issue of digital multicast must carry in the above-referenced docket. In addition, Ralph Everett of this law firm had a telephone conversation on the same subject with Commissioner Copps on February 3, 2005. In each of these conversations, I discussed the detrimental public interest consequences of a potential Commission decision to affirm the Commission's January 23, 2001 Order limiting cable systems' post-DTV Transition digital must carry obligations to a single "primary video" broadcast signal. In particular, I stressed that one of the principal benefits of the conversion to digital television for American consumers, especially lower income, rural, and minority Americans, is the ability to receive up to four channels of standard definition digital television to be used for increased localism and programming diversity. Absent digital multicast must carry, this inherent technological capability conferring true value for American viewers will be lost because there is no viable business model for multicasting without cable carriage. Accordingly, I requested consideration of deferral of any Commission action on the Petition for Reconsideration of the 2001 Multicast Must Carry Order pending consideration of either a comprehensive plan for completing the DTV Transition, or an item providing for multicast must carry and localism focused public interest obligations.

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch

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This letter is being filed pursuant to Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's Rules.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lawrence R. Sidman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lawrence R. Sidman

of PAUL, HASTINGS, JANOFSKY & WALKER LLP

cc: Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Honorable Michael J. Copps  
Jordan Goldstein, Legal Advisor, Commissioner Copps  
Barry Ohlson, Senior Legal Advisor, Commissioner Adelstein